

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS ROTTERDAM 070

FOR: CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (RYAN, JOHN M.)

SUBJECT: CHILD CUSTODY CASE--NATHALIE RYAN

1. ON JANUARY 26 DISTRICT COURT OF ROERMOND RULED THAT ON BASIS OF EVIDENCE SUBMITTED IN JANUARY 12 HEARING THERE EXISTED INSUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO ENTRUST CUSTODY OF CHILD NATHALIE TO CHILD PROTECTION BOARD OF ROERMOND PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION. IN ESSENCE, COURT MAINTAINED THAT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR. RYAN WERE SO FLIMSY AS TO NOT MERIT INQUIRY, AND THAT ON BALANCE HIS LEGAL RIGHT TO CUSTODY SHOULD PREVAIL. RYAN WAS IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED AND FLEW TO NETHERLANDS TO ASSUME CUSTODY.

2. JACOBS FAMILY (CHILD'S GRANDPARENTS) FILED CIVIL SUIT CHARGING THAT INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT BY LOCAL BODIES WERE INSUFFICIENT AND INCOMPETENT, AND IN SUM NOT A PROPER BASIS FOR COURT TO HAVE MADE A DECISION. ARGUMENTS IN THIS PROCEEDING WERE HELD JANUARY 28 WITH RYAN AND CONOFF IN ATTENDANCE.

3. IN VERDICT RENDERED MORNING OF JANUARY 30, SENIOR JUDGE OF ROERMOND DISTRICT COURT REFUSED TO REVERSE EARLIER DECISION, THEREBY CONFIRMING RYAN S RIGHT TO CUSTODY. HE AND NATHALIE DEPARTED NETHERLANDS 1425 HOURS LOCAL TIME JANUARY 30 FOR LONDON, WHERE HE WAS TO MAKE CONNECTIONS FOR ONWARD FLIGHT.

4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO INFORM OFFICE OF CONG. WAYNE HAYS.

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PAGE 02 ROTTER 00070 301544Z

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